Local Food Links

www.localfoodlinks.org.uk

CAF Venturesome

Challenge

Over the past 30 years, school food shifted from being produced on site in the school kitchens to external commercial caterers providing food which is often low quality. Small rural schools in Dorset, with under 40 pupils and no kitchen facilities, were unable to offer nutritious meals to pupils both eligible and ineligible for free school meals. Based on a small sample of schools, about 20% of pupils are eligible for free school meals, however we believe this to be an underestimate.

Revenue model

We provide lunches to schools, selling goods to not-for-profit businesses. We are contracted to the schools and the parents pay the school or in the case of children who cannot afford school meals, the local authority pays the school.

Impact

From October 2018 we have been able to supply 50 schools, producing approx. 3,700 meals daily, across Dorset (plus 2 in Somerset and Devon). This also means we have been able to employ a further 10 people from the local community. Schools have reported increased attention from children in the afternoon, reduced absences and improved eating skills.

Key Statistics

- **Duration:** 4 years
- **Cost of capital:** 6.5%
- **Turnover:** £1,522,741
- **Investment:** £200,000
- **Product type:** Unsecured loan

Good Finance